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**Hannah Byron to Depart Executive Director Role Next Month**  
***Planned Transition to Coincide with Shift of Maryland Medical Cannabis Program***  
***From Organizational to Operational Phase***

**BALTIMORE (Dec. 2, 2015)** – Hannah Byron, who as executive director of the Natalie M. LaPrade Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission (MMCC) has overseen the organizational and structural development of the state’s medical cannabis program, announced today she will step away from the role next month. Byron’s planned departure comes as the program approaches a milestone shift from its organizational planning stage to its initial operating phase.

“It has been a privilege to help realize the vision of Maryland’s General Assembly and the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission by establishing the foundation for this new industry in Maryland,” Byron said. “As I anticipate my 30<sup>th</sup> year working in the public sector and the medical cannabis program’s transition to an important new phase, this is the logical time for me to hand the reins to a new executive director.”

Byron’s resignation will be effective January 27. The new executive director will be announced at a future date.

“The entire Commission is enormously grateful to Hannah for her leadership during what has been a critical time in the program’s evolution,” said Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission Chairman Dr. Paul W. Davies. “Hannah has implemented a best-in-class program that attracted more than 1,000 total applications for grower, processor and dispensary licenses. This tremendous response is a testament to the faith people around the state and the country have in the program she was instrumental in building from the ground up.”

In her remaining weeks as the Commission’s executive director, Byron will work with Towson University’s Regional Economic Studies Institute (RESI) to develop a revised timeline for the review and scoring of the 1,081 applications for grower, processor and dispensary licenses. The Commission will

extend the application review period due to the number of submissions received and issue an updated schedule in the near future.

RESI has been commissioned by the MMCC to conduct the professional evaluation of applicants seeking licensure as medical cannabis growers, processors and dispensers within the state. RESI will process the applications that meet the mandatory qualification criteria; its team will then assign unique identifying numbers to each application and separate each application into sections that will be evaluated by third-party evaluators who are subject matter experts.

Using the scores provided by the subject matter experts, RESI will aggregate the scores from each application, taking into account the weighting comprehensively outlined in the applications. RESI will rank the applications based on these scores for the Commission to review. The Commission will make the final decision on issuing licenses.

### **About the Natalie M. LaPrade Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission**

The Natalie M. LaPrade Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission develops policies, procedures and regulations to implement programs that ensure medical cannabis is available to qualifying patients in a safe and effective manner. The Commission oversees all licensing, registration, inspection and testing measures pertaining to Maryland's medical cannabis program and provides relevant program information to patients, physicians, growers, dispensers, processors, testing laboratories and caregivers.

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